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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Alkali and Drought
Resistant Plant
Investigations

December 4, 1923.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER
(Not for publication)

The information contained in this News Letter is drawn mainly from newspapers and trade journals, the published source of the information being given in every case. The object of the letter is to furnish information to officials and cooperators of the Department of Agriculture in regard to the condition of the market for long staple cotton. The Department assumes no responsibility for the accuracy and reliability of these quoted statements, and under no circumstances should they be republished as having been issued by the Department of Agriculture.

LONG STAPLE COTTON MARKET CONDITIONS

The New Bedford Standard of December 2 states as follows:

"With cotton future markets reaching new high points during the latter part of the week, there was but little buying activity in the New England cotton consuming centers. Prices were all over the lot so far as extra staples were concerned, and short cotton was so high that mills found it expedient to refrain from purchasing.

"It is a subject of very general comment how unusually cheap extra staple prices are, comparatively speaking. Mill men declare them cheap, but in the same breath turn down the offers. There is a great deal of extra staple cotton in small odd lots that has been carried unhedged up from levels not far from 30 cents, and the owners are now anxious to take their profits and are accepting almost any reasonable offer.

"It is possible to buy any staple length up to full inch and a quarter in middling for 300 on May, and full inch and three-sixteenths is quoted at exactly the same level as Boston inch and an eighth, and only half a cent higher than full inch and a sixteenth.

Statement relative to long staple cotton market cont'd.

Cotton brokers point out that there never in recent years has been available such a favorable opportunity to buy extra staple cottons on a hedged basis. Some of the merchant firms are doing just this, picking up small lots wherever they are offered cheap. ***

* * *

"The cotton trade in New England considers that the Egyptian market has gone completely "loco" and shipment prices are so high that they are quoted as curiosities. Medium grade Sakel for prompt shipment from Alexandria is offered around 49 cents, with the better grades ranging upwards from the 50-cent level. High grade Sakel on the spot, however, is offered around 46 to 47 cents, and even at that there was no buying. ***

* * *

"The high prices quoted on Egyptians have naturally had a decidedly bullish effect on Pima quotations, and inquiry for prices this week brought out the fact that it was very difficult to get number three cotton at less than 43 cents. Twos were quoted at 44 to 45 cents and ones at 45 to 46 cents. Offers of 41 to 43 cents were made from a mill for threes and fours in one case and number twos in the other, but these bids were turned down. Despatches from Arizona indicate that the present market condition, with Pima bringing such an unusually small premium over the price of future, has resulted in most of the Arizona growers having made up their minds to plant all short cotton next season for the sake of the greater yield they can get out of it.

"Current quotations on middling extra staple cottons, classed as to staple on a very high and exacting standard of stapling, are given herewith as approximately indicating a reasonable average.

Inch and an eighth, 38-1/2 to 39-1/2 cents.

Inch and three sixteenths, 39 to 40 cents.

Inch and a quarter, 40 to 42 cents.

Inch and five sixteenths, 41 to 44 cents."

STOCK AT ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

(from Commercial and Financial Chronicle of Dec. 1)

The stocks on November 30 of this year and of the two preceding years were as follows (Egyptian bales, average weight 750 pounds):

<u>1923</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1921</u>
292,000 bales	356,000 bales	322,000 bales

LIVERPOOL PRICES OF EGYPTIAN AND UPLAND
COTTON ON NOV. 30.

(from Commercial and Financial Chronicle of Dec. 1)

	<u>1923</u> (pence)	<u>1922</u> (pence)	<u>1921</u> (pence)
Good Sakel	27.50	19.75	22.50
Middling Uplands	21.37	14.70	10.67

¹ These prices correspond to prices at Liverpool on November 30 of 49.6 cents for Good Sakel and 38.5 cents for Middling Uplands, the pound sterling having been quoted at New York for cable transfer at \$4.332 on November 30.

QUOTATIONS AT NEW ENGLAND MILL POINTS RECEIVED
BY BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.SakelNovember 30

Fully good (prompt)	54 c
Good fair	51-1/8

Pima

No. 1	44-1/2 c
" 2	43-1/2
" 3	42-1/2

MIDDLING QUOTATIONS AT SAVANNAH

The Commercial and Financial Chronicle reports the range of daily closing quotations for Middling Upland cotton on the Savannah market for the week ending November 30, as follows: 34.32 to 36.12

THE CROP IN EGYPT.

The Cotton Gazette (Liverpool) of November 17 quotes P. Augustino and Co. of Alexandria as estimating, from the figures of acreage and October condition published by the Ministry of Agriculture, that the crop will be lower than 4-3/4 million cantars (470,000,000 pounds). These correspondents, referring to the higher estimate of the Alexandria General Produce Association, state:

"But even a crop of 6,000,000 cantars will be inadequate to satisfy the requirements of the spinning trade. Considering that last season's consumption of Egyptian has been in round figures 7,500,000 cantars and the visible supply in Europe and Egypt at the end of August 200,000 bales equal to 1,500,000 cantars, if the world's spinning mills consume this year as much as last we will end the present campaign with no visible supply at all, which is certainly an impossibility."

The same issue of The Cotton Gazette contains the following from G. D. Sarris of Alexandria, dated November 3:

"The Crop: The rainy season has started much earlier than usual, and has added to the handicaps that the Sakel crop has to surmount this season. Heavy torrential rains have spread from the east all over the Delta, and have, in fact, covered a long stretch of Upper Egypt as far south as Beni Souef as well, and in view of the backwardness of the picking they have inflicted severe damage to the crop. It is to be noted that the second picking of Sakels is still in progress, and these rains have definitely wiped out any hopes that existed as to a good top crop. A great deal of cotton is being lost to the ground. The movement of the crop has received a check as a result of bad weather and, in fact, many ginning mills had to suspend operations.

* * *

"It is to be remarked that in as far as forward business is concerned the place of the American outlet is taken by Lancashire this year. Lancashire bought well last month, and did well. America is a mystery, if not a disappointment, as with her short crop a larger interest in our staple was anticipated. The Continent has been less prominent than before."

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
"ASHINGTON, D. C.

Alkali and Drought
Resistant Plant
Investigations

RECEIVED
DEC 11 1923
U. S. Department of Agriculture

December 11, 1923.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER
(Not for publication)

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STOCK AT ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT
(from Commercial and Financial Chronicle of Dec. 8)

The stocks on December 7 of this year and of the two preceding years were as follows (Egyptian bales, average weight 750 pounds):

<u>1923</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1921</u>
272,000 bales	369,000 bales	327,000 bales

LIVERPOOL PRICES OF EGYPTIAN AND UPLAND
COTTON ON DEC. 7.

(from Commercial and Financial Chronicle of Dec. 8)

	<u>1923</u> (pence) 1	<u>1922</u> (pence)	<u>1921</u> (pence)
Good Sakel	24.65	19.00	22.75
Middling Uplands	19.42	14.50	10.95

¹ These prices correspond to prices at Liverpool on December 7 of 44.8 cents for Good Sakel and 35.3 cents for Middling Uplands, the pound sterling having been quoted at New York for cable transfer at \$4.368 on December 7.

QUOTATIONS AT NEW ENGLAND MILL POINTS RECEIVED
BY BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.SakelDecember 7

Fully good (prompt)	49-1/4 c
Good fair	46-1/2

Pima

No. 1	45-1/2 c
" 2	44-1/2
" 3	43-1/2

MIDDLE QUOTATIONS AT SAVANNAH

The Commercial and Financial Chronicle reports the range of daily closing quotations for Middling Upland cotton on the Savannah Market for the week ending December 7, as follows: 33.75 to 36.00

THE CROP IN EGYPT.

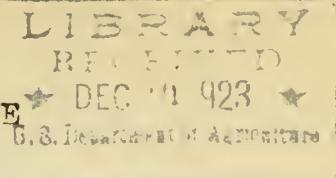
The Cotton Gazette (Liverpool) of November 24 quotes the following from P. Augustino and Co., of Alexandria, dated November 14:

"Some of our friends are emphatic that the crop will not exceed 5-1/2 million cantars. As already stated last week it looks to us as if the estimate of the Produce Association of 5,960,000 errs rather on the high side."

The same issue of The Cotton Gazette contains the following from G. D. Sarris of Alexandria, dated November 10:

"Crop: Contrary to previous expectations, arrivals do not show better staple than last year, and certain districts in particular, especially Char'ieh and Dakahlieh, are even poorer. This is to be ascribed to progressive degeneration of the Sakel plant and frequent re-sowings in the start, as the crop has only suffered seriously during the last stages of its growth, while it was adequately irrigated and received great care on the whole. On the other hand the Upper crop is of a satisfactory nature."

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



Alkali and Drought
Resistant Plant
Investigations

December 18, 1923.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER
(Not for publication)

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LONG STAPLE COTTON MARKET CONDITIONS.

The New Bedford Standard of December 16 states as follows:

"To the much mooted question "how well are the New England mills supplied with cotton?" it can be stated on very good authority that the mills using extra staple cottons are covered as to their needs for the balance of the current season to a much greater extent than is generally believed in the cotton trade. By that is meant that the cotton is contracted for though not actually delivered. How close it will be to type or sample, or how much trouble with rejections will be encountered is impossible to say until the cotton arrives, and a great deal of it is not due to be shipped for several months yet. ***

* * *

"One very disappointing development for the New Bedford fine goods mills has been the failure of the Delta crop of extra staple cotton. Not only has there been a much smaller volume of cotton produced, and not only has the average staple been of shorter length than formerly, but the character of the cotton leaves much to be desired, according to certain of the New Bedford mill men who use Delta cotton in large quantity.

Statement relative to long staple cotton market cont'd.

On the other hand, the Carolina crop this year is said to be of unusually fine character, and some of the mills are showing a preference for it over Delta cotton, - exactly the reverse of their former position. The Delta is said to have produced very little very long-fibered cotton this year, and for work requiring fiber longer than flat inch and a quarter many are finding it necessary to go to Carolina for the proper kind of raw material.

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"Some dealing in Egyptians has taken place, though not in very large volume, and only when the Egyptian market took such a big drop the first part of the week. Medium grade Sakel went as low as 41-1/2 cents and certain offerings were made even at 41 cents flat, which is quite some change from the 47 and 48 cents levels which had ruled only a day or two before. Since the first two days of the week, the Egyptian market has been climbing steadily and medium grade Sakel is now quoted at 45 to 46 cents, while medium grade uppers are quoted at 43-1/2 to 44 cents, for shipment cotton. Spot uppers have sold as low as 41 cents, but Sakel is being held at virtually the same value as shipment. ***

"Interest in Pima still continues in some quarters of the market, but the drop in Sakel made it possible for most mills to cover in needs that might otherwise have been filled with purchases of Pima. Shippers of Pima are banking on the fact that the crop this year will probably be under 25,000 bales, and they are quoting number ones at 45 cents, number twos at 44 cents, and number threes at 43 cents, with occasional offerings of number fours at 41 to 42 cents. There has been little actual dealing in Pima this week, owing to the relatively high prices at which it is held.

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"*** Boston eighths in middling are offered at 250 to 300 on May and it is possible to get strict middling at about these figures if one gets it out of Arizona or California, which are sending in some cotton of very good character and faultless grade with staple ranging from inch and a sixteenth to flat inch and an eighth.

"Average market levels on middling extra staple cotton classed as to staple on a very high and exacting standard of stapling are given herewith, based on actual sales and quotations from reliable shipping houses:

Inch and an eighth, 37 to 37-1/2 cents.

Inch and three-sixteenths, 37-1/2 to 38 cents.

Inch and a quarter, 38-1/2 to 39 cents.

Inch and five-sixteenths, 39 to 40 cents."

STOCK AT ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT
(from Commercial and Financial Chronicle of Dec. 15)

The stocks on December 14 of this year and of the two preceding years were as follows (Egyptian bales, average weight 750 pounds):

<u>1923</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1921</u>
280,000 bales	345,000 bales	308,000 bales

LIVERPOOL PRICES OF EGYPTIAN AND UPLAND COTTON ON DEC. 14.

(from Commercial and Financial Chronicle of Dec. 15)

	<u>1923</u> (pence)	<u>1922</u> (pence)	<u>1921</u> (pence)
Good Sakel	24.05	19.15	23.50
Middling Uplands	19.48	14.56	10.56

¹

These prices correspond to prices at Liverpool on December 14 of 43.8 cents for Good Sakel and 35.4 cents for Middling Uplands, the pound sterling having been quoted at New York for cable transfer at \$4.373 on December 14.

QUOTATIONS AT NEW ENGLAND MILL POINTS RECEIVED BY BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.

Sakel

December 14

Fully good (prompt)	48-1/2 c
Good Fair	45-1/2

Pima

No. 1	45 c
" 2	44
" 3	43

MIDDLE QUOTATIONS AT SAVANNAH

The Commercial and Financial Chronicle reports the range of daily closing quotations for Middle Upland cotton on the Savannah market for the week ending December 14, as follows: 32.01 to 34.50

MILL CONSUMPTION IN THE UNITED STATES OF PIMA AND IMPORTED EGYPTIAN COTTONS, NOVEMBER, 1923.

The Bureau of the Census reports mill consumption of American Egyptian (Pima) cotton during the month of November as 2,453 bales of 500 pounds gross weight, compared with 2,759 bales in October and 2,547 bales in September. The mill consumption of imported Egyptian cotton is reported as having been 19,216 bales in November, compared with 20,152 bales in October and 15,220 bales in September.

THE CROP IN EGYPT.

The following is quoted from "The Cotton Gazette" (Liverpool), issue of December 1:

"Mr. G. D. Sarris writes, Alexandria, November 17th:-
'The Crop: On every day that passes the seriousness of the situation of the Sakel crop is more and more realized. It is not only the quantity, but the quality, that has suffered enormous damage. Very high grades are rare in the extreme, while the nature of the cotton on the whole is materially inferior to that of past seasons. Should there be any substantial revival in the demand of the good grades, which formed half the business of normal years, present supplies will prove to be entirely inadequate, and soaring premiums will result.'"

"Messrs. P. Augustino & Co. write, Alexandria, November 21st:-
'Trustworthy reports from many sources continue to arrive, stating that only little Sakel cotton will be planted next year, and that many of the large landowners have already provided themselves with Zagora and Ashmouni seed, which varieties they intend to substitute against Sakel cotton.'

'If we are to believe all these reports it would seem that no more than a third of this year's acreage planted under Sakel will be planted next season with this variety, which is likely to disappear altogether in 2 or 3 years, in the same way as has disappeared many years ago the long staple Callini cotton, of which many experts believe Sakel to have been a regeneration.'"

"Messrs. Alexandria Commercial Co. write, Alexandria, November 16th.- 'The demand from abroad has embraced all qualities and especially Sakel, the consequence being a widening of the difference with Ashmouni. We consider the existing difference still small, and we expect that it will widen substantially as the season advances and as this year's reduced supplies of Sakel are realized.'"

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
•ASHINGTON, D. C.

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December 27, 1923.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER
(Not for publication)

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LONG STAPLE COTTON MARKET CONDITIONS

The New Bedford Standard of December 23 states as follows:

"Reluctance to go into the New Year with any larger inventory than necessary has played a large part in confining the trading in New England cotton markets to very narrow limits during the past week. Many of the cotton manufacturing corporations close their fiscal year with the calendar year, and in view of the fact that there seems to be but little demand in the cloth or yarn markets at the moment, they do not feel compelled to extend their raw material commitments just now and are postponing action in many cases until after the turn of the year, hoping that meanwhile cotton prices will sag somewhat.

"Interest in cotton offerings, however, has by no means been lacking, and the manufacturers were almost always willing to pick up bargain lots if the cotton was suited to their needs. Several sales properly classed in the "pick-up" line have been reported, but prices as a whole have remained very firm, moving up in conformity with the future market, so that they are a cent to a cent and a half higher on a flat price

Statement relative to long staple cotton market cont'd.

basis than they were a week ago. Local merchants remark on the fact that shippers are by no means pressing their offerings, and note that many have withdrawn their quotations entirely until after the New Year.

"Unsold spot stocks held in New England warehouses have been drawn down practically to the exhaustion point, and would have resulted in a real famine in spot cottons had it not been for the selling off of certain stocks in mill warehouses. ***

* * *
"Cloth mills making fine fabrics are still operating at 80 to 90 per cent of normal capacity and in some instances running overtime, ***

"Egyptian prices have eased off slightly from the high levels of a week ago, and medium grade Sakel is now offered around 45 cents, while medium grade uppers can be had around 42 cents. There has been little buying of either, however, and not even of spot uppers which can be had around 40 to 41 for medium grades.

"Pima number two has been bought at 44 cents, and more can be had at the same figure, though some are asking 45. The last-named figure will buy number ones in certain quarters, while 43 cents is asked for number threes.

* * *

"Current prices on middling white extra staple cotton, classed as to staple on a high and very exacting standard of stapling, are given herewith as indicative of the generally quoted levels in reliable quarters:

Inch and an eighth, 38 to 38-1/2 cents

Inch and three-sixteenths, 38-1/2 to 39 cents.

Inch and a quarter, 39 to 40 cents.

Inch and five-sixteenths, 41 to 42 cents."

QUOTATIONS AT NEW ENGLAND MILL POINTS RECEIVED
BY BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.

Sakel

December 21

Fully good (prompt)	46-7/8 c
Good fair	44-1/4

Pima

No. 1	46 c
" 2	45
" 3	44

EGYPTIAN COTTON IMPORTS

The Bureau of the Census reports as follows the imports from Egypt, in equivalent 500-pound bales, during the month of November and during the four months ending November 30, 1923, as well as the corresponding data for the preceding year.

November : 4 mos. ending Nov. 30

1923. : 1922. : 1923. : 1922.

11,488 : 30,399 : 20,474 : 60,653

MARKET POSITION OF EGYPTIAN COTTON.

The Textile World of December 15, 1923, states as follows:

"Analysis of the statistical position of Egyptian cotton shows that world stocks at the beginning of the current season on Sept. 1 were much less than either last year or the year before, that although the current crop will probably be somewhat larger than that of last year, or the year previous, the total supply for the season will be less than last year or two years ago, that spinners' takings during the first two months of this year were somewhat larger than last year and about the same as two years ago, and the world stock at countable points on Nov. 1 was materially less than last year or two years ago. In other words, Egyptian cotton, from the standpoint of supply and takings, appears to be in a strong position."

The "total countable supply" on Nov. 1, 1923, is estimated as 943,000 bales of an average weight of 750 pounds, compared with 1,142,000 bales on Nov. 1, 1922 and 1,134,000 bales on Nov. 1, 1921.

THE CROP IN EGYPT.

The following is quoted from "The Cotton Gazette" (Liverpool), issue of December 8:

"Mr. G. D. Sarris writes, Alexandria, November 24th: 'The Crop: Arrivals are very substantial, amounting so far to 428,000 bales, as against 412,000 and 299,000 bales in the previous two seasons. The movement of the crop is heavy, as planters and traders are hurrying to market their holdings in order to secure prevailing prices; but it is not to be inferred from these figures that the crop is any larger than earlier estimates. There is good reason to believe that over two-thirds of the crop have already passed from the hands of planters, while in some early districts there are indications of exhaustion of supplies.'"

"Alexandria Commercial Co. write, Alexandria, 23rd November:- 'Crop 1923: Cotton continues to be rushed to the ginning centres, and in all the ginning factories the congestion is great. The daily arrivals in Alexandria will continue to be large as all the factories are working at full speed. Small growers are in general satisfied with present prices and sell willingly.'"

